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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Hanson Fire Update

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Hanson Fire Chief Jerome Thompson Jr said the cause of the 5 a.m. fire this morning at 999 Main Street in Hanson remains under investigation. No final cause determination will be made today. The building was unoccupied which gave the fire a head start before it was noticed and reported to the fire department.

Chief Thompson said, "There was heavy fire when we arrived. We were able to protect the exposure of the buildings on either side from becoming involved." Mutual aid was received from Whitman and Pembroke Fire Departments and Halifax Fire Department provided station coverage.

This fire is being jointly investigated by the Hanson Fire and Police Departments, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, who often join our investigative team when commercial buildings are involved.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "There is obviously great concern that this fire may be connected to the fires that occurred in Halifax and Plympton yesterday morning, but until we determine if this fire was intentionally set or not, it would be premature to speculate. I would ask our citizens to be vigilant and if they saw anything or anyone around the scene of these fires to call local police or the statewide Arson Hotline at 1-800-682-9229." All calls are confidential and the hotline is answered 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

The Arson Hotline is part of the Arson Watch Reward Program funded by the property and casualty insurance underwriting companies of Massachusetts. It provides rewards of up to \$5,000 for information that helps to solve the crime of arson.